

**PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE DIVISION[645]**

**Adopted and Filed**

**Rule making related to licensure of optometrists**

The Board of Optometry hereby amends Chapter 180, “Licensure of Optometrists,” Iowa Administrative Code.

*Legal Authority for Rule Making*

This rule making is adopted under the authority provided in Iowa Code sections 147.76 and 154.3.

*State or Federal Law Implemented*

This rule making implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code section 154.3.

*Purpose and Summary*

These amendments update the license application procedures, streamline the requirements for endorsement applications, streamline the requirements for license reactivation, and add an examination option for license reactivation.

*Public Comment and Changes to Rule Making*

Notice of Intended Action for this rule making was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on December 15, 2021, as **ARC 6095C**. A public hearing was held on January 4, 2022, at 10 a.m. in the Fifth Floor Board Conference Room 526, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa. No one attended the public hearing. No public comments were received. No changes from the Notice have been made.

*Adoption of Rule Making*

This rule making was adopted by the Board on April 7, 2022.

*Fiscal Impact*

This rule making has no fiscal impact to the State of Iowa.

*Jobs Impact*

After analysis and review of this rule making, no impact on jobs has been found.

*Waivers*

A waiver provision is not included in this rule making because all administrative rules of the professional licensure boards in the Professional Licensure Division are subject to the waiver provisions accorded under 645—Chapter 18.

*Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee*

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rule making by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rule making at its [regular monthly meeting](#) or at a special meeting. The Committee’s meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

*Effective Date*

This rule making will become effective on August 3, 2022.

The following rule-making actions are adopted:

ITEM 1. Rescind subrule 180.2(1) and adopt the following **new** subrule in lieu thereof:

**180.2(1)** The following criteria shall apply to licensure:

- a. Applicants shall complete a board-approved application. Applications may be completed at the board's website ([www.idph.iowa.gov/licensure](http://www.idph.iowa.gov/licensure)).
- b. Applicants shall submit the appropriate fees payable to the Board of Optometry. The fees are nonrefundable.
- c. No application will be considered complete until official copies of academic transcripts sent directly to the board from an accredited school or college of optometry are received by the board and the applicant submits proof of satisfactory completion of all educational requirements contained in Iowa Code chapter 154.
- d. Applicants shall provide evidence of passing all current NBEO examinations including the Treatment and Management of Ocular Disease examination.
- e. Licensees who were issued their licenses within six months prior to the renewal date shall not be required to renew their licenses until the renewal date two years later.

ITEM 2. Rescind subrule 180.3(1) and adopt the following **new** subrule in lieu thereof:

**180.3(1)** Applicants who have been licensed as an optometrist in another state may apply for licensure by endorsement by submitting the following:

- a. A completed licensure application and payment of the application fee.
- b. Verification of license(s) from every jurisdiction in which the applicant has been licensed showing the licensee's name, date of initial licensure, current licensure status, and any disciplinary action taken against the license.
- c. Evidence of a passing score for all parts of the NBEO examination at the time of licensure as an optometrist in another state and evidence of a passing score for the Treatment and Management of Ocular Disease examination.
- d. Verification of current competence to practice as an optometrist by satisfying one of the following criteria:
  - (1) Current CELMO certification; or
  - (2) Practice as an optometrist for a minimum of 2,080 hours during the preceding two-year period; or
  - (3) Employment as a faculty member teaching optometry in an accredited school of optometry for at least one academic year during the preceding two-year period; or
  - (4) Completion of a minimum of 50 hours of continuing education during the preceding two-year period; or
  - (5) Passing the NBEO examination during the preceding two-year period.

ITEM 3. Rescind rule 645—180.11(17A,147,272C) and adopt the following **new** rule in lieu thereof:

**645—180.11(17A,147,272C) License reactivation.** To apply for reactivation of an inactive license, a licensee must submit the following:

**180.11(1)** A completed reactivation application and payment of the application fee.

**180.11(2)** Verification of license(s) from every jurisdiction in which the licensee has been licensed showing the licensee's name, date of initial licensure, current licensure status, and any disciplinary action taken against the license.

**180.11(3)** Verification of current competence to practice as an optometrist by satisfying one of the following criteria:

- a. Current CELMO certification; or

- b.* Practice as an optometrist for a minimum of 2,080 hours during the preceding two-year period;
- or
- c.* Employment as a faculty member teaching optometry in an accredited school of optometry for at least one academic year during the preceding two-year period; or
- d.* Completion of a minimum of 50 hours of continuing education during the preceding two-year period; or
- e.* Passing the NBEO examination during the preceding two-year period.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: For replacement pages for IAC, see IAC Supplement 6/29/22.